

Curriculum Materials for Teaching in Secondary Schools

A Guide to Library Information

Where do I begin?

- The Coumts Library Curriculum Collection houses material to support the instructional programs in Alberta schools. This material is useful when researching the curriculum, developing unit and lesson plans, and compiling a list of learning resources to be used in the classroom with students.
- There are lots of ways to get help finding and using information in the Curriculum Collection.
 - **Check the Coumts Library Webpage!** -- <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/index.cfm>.
 - **Look Around!** The Alberta Education curriculum documents are on the main floor in the filing cabinets along the north wall. The curriculum collection is on the lower level of the Library.
 - **Ask for Help!** -- in person at the Coumts Library Service Desk, by telephone at 492-3770, by email or 'chat'. See 'Ask Us' on the Library homepage, or go to <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/askus/>

A. How do I find information on what to teach?

Programs of Study

- These are legal documents outlining the curriculum as prescribed by Alberta Education.
- They outline what students are expected to know and be able to do in the given subject areas – the SKAs. The Program of Study for each subject area outlines the program rationale and philosophy, the content scope, and structure and sequencing.
- They are available online in PDF format from Alberta Education at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers.aspx>, or by following the K-12 Teaching Resources and K-12 Curriculum links from the Coumts Education homepage.
- Programs of Study are also available to consult or sign out from the main floor of the Coumts library in the filing cabinets along the north wall. There is a *Subject Index* binder on top of the cabinets.

B. How do I find information on how to teach?

Curriculum Support Documents

- Your starting point should be the support documents created by Alberta Education to support the programs of study. They can be called *Guide to Implementation*, *Teacher Resource Manual* or *Curriculum Guide*, depending on their year of publication. These guides provide practical suggestions on how to teach specific subjects that draw on the expertise of Alberta teachers. They may include sample lesson or unit plans and/or evaluation guides.
- Depending on the year of publication, these documents are available in print and/or electronic form. For up-to-date information consult the Alberta Education subject page online or, in the library, check the *Alberta Curriculum Documents Subject Index*, a print index situated on top of the filing cabinets at the north end of the main floor. Many of these support documents are also available in PDF format through the subject pages listed on the Alberta Education web site http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/. Follow the 'Learning and Teaching Resources' link on the various subject pages.
- See also *Focus on Inquiry* on each of the subject pages.
- Many additional materials are available in the Coumts Library and elsewhere. Guides to assist you in locating some of these additional materials are available at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/guides/index.cfm>. These cover such topics as classroom management, lesson plans and unit plans and creating an APA reference list.

How do I stay informed about curriculum changes?

Connection

- This online newsletter for Alberta teachers is designed to highlight new resources and provide the most current information on the curriculum in the various subject and interdisciplinary areas. Teachers can subscribe to the newsletter which is available online at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/Connection/>

How do I stay informed about education in Alberta?

- **Check our Blog!** – <http://blogs.library.ualberta.ca/ednews> for news items of interest to Alberta educators

C. How do I find authorized learning resources that I can teach with?

LRC Authorized Resources Database

- The online K-12 *Authorized Resources Database* lists resources that have been authorized for use in Alberta classrooms and indicates where titles can be previewed. It is located at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb/>
- Learning resources are classified as **student basic**, **student support** or **authorized teaching** and can be audio-visual material as well as print. **Student basic** resources are those deemed to meet the majority of the learner expectations as outlined in the Programs of Study. **Student support** resources complement basic resources by addressing some of the learner expectations. **Authorized teaching** resources are those reviewed by Alberta Education and identified as appropriate for use by the teacher to support preparation and delivery of the curriculum outlined in the Programs of Study.
- Resources may be available to borrow from the Coutts Curriculum Library or purchased from the LRC.

LRC Resources Catalogue

- The *LRC Resources Catalogue* lists learning resources authorized for use in Alberta schools by Alberta Education. It is available online at <http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html>.
- The subject sections of the *Catalogue* may also be listed on the Alberta Education subject web pages.

D. How do I find additional learning resources in the library?

Library Catalogue – <http://www.library.ualberta.ca> → Other Search Options

- When developing a lesson or unit plan you will often want to supplement the material that Alberta Education has authorized. The Curriculum Library, located in the lower level of Coutts Library, collects books, audio-visual materials, and electronic resources that support teaching in all the subject areas of the Alberta curriculum.
- To view resources at the K-12 level, it is helpful to limit your search result to items located in the HT Coutts Education Library. Sometimes adding the term *juvenile* can also help limit the resources to a K-12 level. A specific format can also be specified to limit the results further. Use the following examples as a guide to locating materials in the library catalogue:

ozone and videorecording
shakespeare and juvenile films
artists and juvenile literature
biology and kit

bullying and juvenile fiction
mathematics and problems exercises
genetics and study and teaching (secondary)
art and cd-rom

Evaluating Curriculum Material

- Once material is located, it should always be evaluated to determine its overall quality and suitability in terms of your teaching/learning strategies and your student's needs and abilities. For a list of evaluation criteria for curriculum materials see <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/curriculum/evaluation/index.cfm>

KCDL online (Kraus Curriculum Development Library) <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/databases/databaseinfo/index.cfm?ID=3466>

- entry point to thousands of curriculum documents; primarily U.S. based; see database listing for more information

E. How do I find learning resources online?

K-12 Teaching Resources

- The H.T. Coutts K-12 Teaching Resources page provides many links to Library and Internet resources. It is located at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/index.cfm>
- This page also has links to the Library Lesson and Unit Plan Guide and to lesson plans on the Internet
 - at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/preppplans/index.cfm>
 - at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/lessonplans/index.cfm>

Some Additional Links to Get You Started

- **Learn Alberta:** <http://www.learnalberta.ca/> -- includes the Online Reference Centre
- **E-Stat, a part of Statistics Canada:** <http://www.statcan.ca/english/Estat/licence.htm> → Learning Resources
- **2Learn:** <http://www.2learn.ca/> OR, to search: <http://www.2learn.ca/search/default.html>
- **Google:** www.google.ca

Evaluating Internet Resources

- As with print materials, these resources must always be evaluated as to their suitability. For a list of evaluation criteria for web resources see <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/criticalevaluation/index.cfm>

RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPING LESSON & UNIT PLANS

Schematic Diagram: Lesson Plan Development Strategy

OVERVIEW OF CURRICULUM FOR A SPECIFIC SUBJECT

Programs of Study –

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers.aspx> -- follow subject links



TEACHING SUPPORT FOR A SPECIFIC SUBJECT

Implementation Guides, Illustrative Examples,
Service Publications

Teacher Resource Manuals or Curriculum Guides

http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/ -- follow subject links



LEARNING RESOURCES

APPROVED BY ALBERTA EDUCATION

Learning Resources Centre Catalogue/Buyers Guide -

<http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html>

Authorized Resources Database - <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb/>



OTHER RESOURCES AS NEEDED

(Reference collection, NEOS Catalogue –

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/>

Coutts Resource Guides

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/guides/index.cfm>

Internet resources –

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/index.cfm>



PREPARATION

OF UNIT AND LESSON PLANS and Web Based Examples

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/preplans/index.cfm>

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/subject/education/k12/lessonplans/index.cfm>